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PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS, INCLUDING ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in the report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Third Committee (A/C.3/48/L.85)

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 57th meeting, on 16 December 1993, the Third Committee adopted the draft resolution contained in the report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Third Committee (A/C.3/48/L.85), as orally amended. A statement of programme budget implications was before the Committee in document A/C.3/48/L.87.

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

2. Under the terms of the amended draft resolution contained in the report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Third Committee (A/C.3/48/L.85), the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to create the post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) Decide that the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall:

...

(ii) Be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and approved by the General Assembly, with due regard to geographical rotation, and have a fixed term of four years with a possibility of one renewal for another fixed term of four years;

(iii) Be of the rank of Under-Secretary-General;

...

(c) Decide that the High Commissioner for Human Rights will be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General; within the framework of the overall competence, authority and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, the High Commissioner's responsibilities would be:

...

(xi) Overall supervision of the Centre for Human Rights;

...

(d) Decide that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights shall be located in Geneva and shall have a liaison office in New York;

(e) Request the Secretary-General to provide appropriate staff and resources from within the existing and future regular budgets of the United Nations, to enable the High Commissioner to fulfil his/her mandate, without diverting resources from the development programmes and activities of the United Nations.

B. Relationship of the requests to the approved programme of work

3. The above request is related to major programme VII (Human Rights, fundamental freedoms and humanitarian affairs), programme 35 (Promotion and protection of human rights), of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as revised, 1/ and the programme of activities for section 21 (Human rights) of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. 2/

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

4. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would take steps to appoint the High Commissioner at the Under-Secretary-General level. In order to do so, the creation of a post at the level of Under-Secretary-General would be required. Since the High Commissioner would be responsible for the overall supervision of the Centre for Human Rights, he/she would draw on the resources of the Centre to fulfil his/her task. At the same time, it would be necessary to provide the High Commissioner with support for his/her immediate office, consisting of one special assistant at the P-5 level and two General Service staff. Provision would also need to be made for

overtime ($5,000), travel ($50,000) and office automation equipment ($7,000). With regard to the liaison office in New York, this would require the establishment of a P-5 post and one General Service post. The Liaison Office of the Centre for Human Rights currently consists of one Professional (P-4) and one General Service staff. It is estimated that this would not be adequate.

D. Additional requirements at full cost

5. The implementation of the requests contained in the draft resolution would require a total additional provision of $1,471,400, as follows:

	Thousands of United States dollars
(a) Posts	
High Commissioner's Office in Geneva	
Salary and common staff costs of 1 Under-Secretary-General	420.6
Salary and common staff costs of 1 P-5	305.9
Salary and common staff costs of 2 General Service/Other level	325.0
	1 051.5
Liaison Office in New York	
Salary and common staff costs of 1 P-5	255.2
Salary and common staff costs of 1 General Service/Other level	102.0
	357.9
(b) Non-post	
Travel	50.0
Overtime	5.0
Office automation equipment	7.0
	62.0
Total (a) and (b)	1 471.4

In addition, it is estimated that $397,600 would be required under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

E. Potential for absorption

6. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 under section 21 (Human rights) to cover the estimated additional requirements of $1,471,400 related to the establishment of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and the Liaison Office in New York. Therefore, it is not anticipated that the cost of $1,471,400 would be absorbed within the provision under section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

F. Indication of additional requirements

7. Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in the report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Third Committee (A/C.3/48/L.85), it is estimated that additional requirements of $1,471,400 would arise under section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $397,600 would be requested under section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

G. Contingency fund

8. It will be recalled that under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from the legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, these activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources available from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the General Assembly towards the end of the current biennium.

9. No activity has been identified for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Should it not prove possible to meet the costs required from the contingency fund, the implementation of the draft resolution may have to be postponed, as provided for in the guidelines for the use and operation of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

H. Summary

10. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in the report of the Chairman of the Working Group of the Third Committee (A/C.3/48/L.85), it is estimated that additional appropriations of $1,471,400 would be required under section 21 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995. Furthermore, an amount of $397,600 would be required under

section 28 (Staff assessment), to be offset by the same amount under income section 1 (Income from staff assessment).

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/47/6/Rev.1), vol. II.

2/ A/48/6 (Sect. 21).